

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Inventory Completion of Native American Human Remains from the Site of Mo'omomi on Molokai, HI in the Possession of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, CA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior

ACTION: Notice

Notice is hereby given in accordance with provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003 (d), of the completion of the inventory of human remains from the site of Mo'omomi on Molokai, HI that are presently in the possession of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

A detailed inventory and assessment of these human remains has been made by the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History's curatorial staff in consultation with representatives of *Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna 'O Hawai'i Nei*, a Native Hawaiian organization as defined in 25 U.S.C. 3001 (11).

The human remains consist of 36 whole and three fragmentary human teeth. The human remains were donated to the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History in 1927 by Dr. William A. Bryan, then Director of the Los Angeles County Museum. The remains were catalogued as A.1463.27-36.

The catalog description states the remains are a "box of human teeth from the battle field of Momumi." A representative of *Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna 'O Hawai'i Nei* has identified "Momumi" as the site of Mo'omomi on Molokai and has stated that the sand dunes of Mo'omomi have long been used as burial grounds of ancestral Native Hawaiians. Reference to the "battlefield of Momumi" is thought to refer to this burial area. The representative of *Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna 'O Hawai'i Nei* has also provided documentation that shows that Bryan and others collected human remains from Mo'omomi.

Inventory of the human remains and review of the accompanying documentation indicate that no known individuals were identifiable. Based on the above information, officials of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History have determined that pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (2), there is a relationship of shared group identity which can be reasonably traced between these human remains and present-day Native Hawaiian organizations.

This notice has been sent to officials of *Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna 'O Hawai'i Nei*, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Molokai Island Burial Council. Representatives of any other Native Hawaiian organization which believes itself to be culturally affiliated with these human remains should contact Dr. Margaret Ann Hardin, Curator and Section Head, Anthropology, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007, telephone: (213) 744-3382, before May 18, 1995. Repatriation of these human remains to *Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna 'O Hawai'i Nei* may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: April 6, 1995

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